

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /083 W

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R 131545Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5377

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2281

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA; ICJ BEGINS HEARINGS; CONTACTS BUT

NO DIALOGUE BETWEEN MOROCCO AND SPAIN

1. LOCAL PRESS COVERED ICJ'S OPENING DELIBERATIONS ON SPANISH SAHARA QUESTION MAY 12. FIRST QUESTION TO BE DECIDED IS WHETHER TO ACCEDE TO MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN DEMANDS THAT TWO AD HOC JUDGES JOIN COURT AS COUNTERWEIGHT TO SPANISH JURIST FREDERICO DE CASBRO, WHO IS PERMANENT MEMBER OF COURT. MOROCCANS HAVE REQUESTED IVORY COAST JURIST ALPHONSE BONI AND MAURITANIANS AN AS YET UNNAMED ZAIROIS. ONE NEWSPAPER HERE BELIEVES ISSUE WILL BE DECIDED MAY 13. PRESS REPORTS THAT ON MAY 12, MOROCCAN UN PERMREP SLAOUI DELEGATED NICE UNIVERSITY LAW PROFESSOR RENE JEAN DUPUY TO MAKE GOM'S CASE ON AD HOC JUDGE QUESTION, AND LATTER HELD FORTH FOR THREE HOURS. MAURITANIANS WILL REPORTEDLY MAKE SIMILAR PRESENTATION MAY 13.

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2. ON QUESTION OF MOROCCAN-SPANISH DIALOGUE, ISTIQLAL SECYGEN BOUCETTA TOLD US THAT HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SPANISH ON SAHARA QUESTION. HE DID NOT BECOME MORE SPECIFIC BUT INDICATED THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT PROGRESS COULD BE MADE. PRESS HERE SUMMARIZED A PRESUMABLY RECENT BOUCETTA INTERVIEW WITH SPANISH MAGAZINE VANGUARDIA WHICH NOTED BOUCETTA HAD VISITED SPAIN ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AND IN WHICH SECYGEN BROKE NO NEW DIPLOMATIC GROUND.

3. SPANISH EMBASSY HERE CONFIRMS THAT BOUCETTA VISITED MADRID RECENTLY AND WAS IN CONTACT WITH LEADING OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, EMBASSY NOTED THAT VISIT, LIKE THOSE EARLIER OF POPULAR MOVEMENT LEADER MAJHOUBI AHARDAN AND ISTIQLAL MEMBER BARAKAT, SIMPLY PROVIDED OCCASION FOR RESTATEMENT OF FAMILIAR MOROCCAN POSITIONS AND DID NOTHING TO ESTABLISH GENUINE DIALOGUE.

4. SPANISH EMBASSY NOTED ALSO THAT HEAVILY PUBLICIZED GUERRILLA ACITIVITY IN SAHARA HAD IN FACT BEEN TAKING PLACE AND WAS WORK OF MOROCCAN-SPONSORED LIBERATION AND UNITY FRONT. SERIOUSNESS OF CLASHES, EMBASSY BELIEVED, HAD BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED ALTHOUGH PRESS CLAIMS THAT GUERRILLAS CARRIED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS WERE, IN SPANISH VIEW, PROBABLY CORRECT. SPANISH EMBASSY DID NOT HAVE SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO OFFER ON DEGREE OF GOM INVOLVEMENT IN INCIDENTS BUT REPEATED ITS PREVIOUS ASSERTION THAT MOROCCAN ARMY HAD BEEN TRAINING GUERRILLAS FOR INFILTRATION INTO SAHARA. IT WAS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE, SPANISH SAID, THAT TRAINING PROGRAMS HAD PRODUCED SOME GRADUATES.
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